

Draft

Rockville Environment Commission Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, June 5, 2014 Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue

Attendance

Commissioners Present: John Becker, Steve Cardon, Kris Dighe, Lydia Han, Amanda Matheny, Clark Reed and Lea Rosenbohm (arrived at 8:10 pm)

Commissioners Absent: Alicia Hosmer and Ming Hu,

M&C Liaison: Julie Palakovich Carr (absent)

Guests: Mark Charles, Environmental Management;
Stephanie Reddick, City Resident

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:30 pm by Chair Reed.

Approval of the May 1, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Becker moved and Commissioner Dighe seconded a motion to approve the May 1, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion passed 6-0-0 with two minor revisions

Debrief on the Rockville Hometown Holidays

The film *Trashed* was well attended and well received. Approximately 20 people attended the Friday screening. Another 51 attended the Saturday showing. Julie Lawson of *Trash Free Maryland* was also well received and engaging.

Suggestions for improvements:

- Send out invitations well in advance and follow up with reminders.
- Book the Library conference room earlier in the year.
- Purchase a sound system to use with laptop and projector.
- Try to pair a speaker with the film at least once if not both showings.

The booth was located on East Montgomery Avenue near the Regal Theater. Observations and lessons learned include:

- It was a good location.
- Commissioners need standard talking points on recycling, stormwater and energy efficiency initiatives.
- Beach area should have placed stormwater booms and covers in front of inlets.
- Should be sure to arrange for two tables in the booth.
- Be sure to arrange for a raffle rain barrel to be at the booth.
- Be sure to have power strip at the booth (consider purchase?).
- Chair Reed provided a hot spot for internet access.
- The solar roof analysis was very popular – evaluated homes for 25-30 people.
- 12 people signed up as interested in a future solar network purchasing program.
- Stephanie Reddick brought a solar telescope which was very popular.

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- The give-aways were effective and popular
- The booth laptops were somewhat awkward. iPads may have been easier.
- Sharing the booth with the Bike Committee (on Sunday) worked well.
- Commission stored materials (except the raffle cards) in 30 Courthouse and was easily retrieved by Environmental Management. Commissioner Becker took electronics home for safe keeping.

Letter to Rockville Solar Homes

Chair Reed and Erica Shingara prepared a letter to 65 residential homes with solar installations. Ms. Shingara also set up a survey monkey response tool for residents to express interest in the area solar homes tour scheduled for October, and the placement of a sign in the front yard inviting neighbors to ask about going solar. Residents were asked to respond by June 17.

Chair Reed moved and Commissioner Dighe seconded that the Commission spend up to \$200 to purchase solar home signs to be distributed to participating homeowners. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Outreach Committee Report

The name of the rainbarrel raffle was drawn by Commissioner Rosenbohm: Emily Chesterton on Woodstone Road. Environmental Management will deliver the rainbarrel to the residence.

The Committee would like to increase the connection to the community and obtain ideas and suggestions from residents; and sponsoring a residential solar initiative may provide a topic/vehicle to do so.

Watershed Committee Report

The Committee reviewed the draft Watts Branch Assessment and encourages other Commissioners to do so as well.

Sustainable Design and Energy Committee Report

Stephanie Reddick and Ryan Marcheschi met with Patrick Stroud (Rockville's Fleet Manager) and the Clean Cities Coalition about the future use of alternative fuel vehicles. The two have also met with COG and the Maryland Energy Administration Fleet program Manager. They noted that Montgomery County recently received \$620,000 to convert existing diesel vehicles to alternatives (e.g., natural gas).

Environmental Management Report

State Draft Zero Waste Plan

The Maryland Department of the Environment recently published a draft plan on achieving zero waste in the State by 2040. Rockville environmental staff reviewed the plan and submitted comments. Commissioners interested in a copy of the City's comments should contact Mark Charles.

RainScapes Cost Share Dollars are Still Available

Commissioners who know neighbors and friends who might be interested in installing a rainbarrel, conservation landscaping, removing impervious surface, or planting trees should visit the website and consider applying for these funds.

A Rainbarrel Workshop is scheduled for Saturday June 7, at 1:30 pm at the Twinbrook Community Center.

August Commission Tour

After a brief discussion, the Commission expressed interest in visiting the "Water Shed" – Pepco's Green Building that was constructed for the previous solar decathlon and is now relocated to the Gude drive property. Mark Charles will contact Pepco and schedule the visit if possible.

New Business

- It was noted that Commissioner Hosmer's mother recently passed away. Sympathy was expressed by all other attending Commissioners.
- Commissioner Dighe indicated that, since he is being nominated for service on the City's Ethics Board, he was resigning, effective immediately from the Commission. Commissioner Han also indicated that she was leaving Rockville to attend college in Boston this fall and would also be resigning in early August. Recruitment for both positions will begin as soon as possible.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 9:30 pm.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for **Thursday, July 3, 2014**. This meeting will be held in the Diamondback Conference Room of the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland. The public is invited to attend.